

## Mount Ridley P12 College

# STATEMENT OF VALUES AND SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY



### Help for non-English speakers

If you require assistance with understanding this policy, please do not hesitate to contact the College and someone will organise a multicultural aide or the relevant person to assist you.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to outline the values of our College community and explain the vision, mission and objectives of our school.

## POLICY

Mount Ridley P-12 College is committed to providing a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for all students, staff and members of our community. Our College recognises the importance of the partnership between our school and parents and carers to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing. We share a commitment to, and a responsibility for, creating an inclusive and safe environment for our students.

The programs of, and teaching at Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- Elected government;
- The rule of law;
- Equal rights for all before the law;
- Freedom of religion;
- Freedom of speech and association, and
- The values of openness and tolerance.

This document outlines our College's vision, mission, objective, values and expectations of our College community. This policy is available on our College website,

To celebrate and embed our Statement of Values and Philosophy in our College community, we:

- display posters and banners that promote our values in our College
- celebrate our values in our College newsletter
- provide awards and recognition for students who actively demonstrate the College's values
- discuss our values with students in the classroom, meetings and assemblies.

## VISION

Mount Ridley Prep - Year 12 College is dedicated to achieving excellence in teaching and learning, through innovative teaching practice and the promotion of core values and vital life skills. We are a community of active global citizens who are committed to life-long learning.

## MISSION

At Mount Ridley Prep - Year 12 College we will:

- develop a positive learning culture through an engaging and safe learning environment;
- ensure access to varied and well-resourced programs;
- provide innovative opportunities for skill development;
- facilitate all aspects of learning;
- support every student to achieve individual success;
- foster independence and creativity; and
- promote active involvement in the wider community.

## OBJECTIVE

With the motto of 'Preparing today's students for tomorrow's opportunities', Mount Ridley Prep – 12 College's objective is to *ensure all students complete their education with a practical understanding of the curriculum* and a commitment to life-long learning.

Our College's objectives are considered as part of the 4 yearly strategic planning process and reflected in the goals listed in our current School Strategic Plan (SSP). We also develop an Annual Implementation Plan to operationalise the goals and key improvement strategies contained in our SSP.

## VALUES

There are four basic principles, our (College values), upon which the College is founded:

- Respect and Tolerance;
- Personal Success;
- Honesty and Trust; and
- Responsibility.

Each year the College Community agrees upon an Animating Principle which is aligned to and highlights one of these values.

## BEHAVIOURAL EXPECTATIONS

Mount Ridley Prep - 12 acknowledges that the behaviour of staff, parents, carers and students has an impact on our College community and culture. We acknowledge a shared responsibility to create a positive learning environment for the children and young people at our College.

As Principal Class and College Leaders, we will:

- model positive behaviour and effective leadership;
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community;
- work collaboratively to create a College environment where respectful and safe behaviour is expected of everyone;
- ensure all parents/carers are aware of the expectations outlined in the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- behave in a manner consistent with the standards of our profession and meet core responsibilities to provide safe and inclusive environments;

- plan, implement and review our work to ensure the care, safety, security and general wellbeing of all students at the College;
- identify and support students who are or may be at risk;
- do our best to ensure every child achieves their personal and learning potential;
- work with parents / carers to understand their child's needs and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly;
- respond appropriately when safe and inclusive behaviour is not demonstrated and implement appropriate interventions and sanctions when required;
- inform parents / carers of the College's communication and complaints procedures; and
- ask any person who is acting in an offensive, intimidating or otherwise inappropriate way to cease the behaviour and leave the College grounds.

As teachers and support staff, we will:

- support students to meet expected standards of behaviour as outlined in our Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy, Inclusion and Diversity Policy, Bullying Prevention Policy
- model positive behaviour to students consistent with the standards of our profession;
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community;
- proactively engage with parents / carers about student outcomes;
- work with parents / carers to understand the needs of each student and, where necessary, adapt the learning environment accordingly;
- work collaboratively with parents / carers to improve learning and wellbeing outcomes for students with additional needs;
- communicate with the Principal and College Leaders in the event we anticipate or face any tension or challenging behaviours from parents / carers; and
- treat all members of the College community with respect.

As parents and carers, we will:

- model positive behaviours to our child;
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community, in line with the Department's [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#);
- ensure our child attends College on time, every day the College is open for instruction;
- take an interest in our child's College and learning;
- work with the College to achieve the best outcomes for our child;
- communicate constructively with the college and use expected processes and protocols when raising concerns;
- support College staff to maintain a safe learning environment for all students;
- follow the College's processes for communication with staff and making complaints; and
- treat all College leaders, staff, students, and other members of the College community with respect.

As students, we will:

- model positive behaviour to other students;
- communicate politely and respectfully with all members of the College community;
- comply with and model College values;
- behave in a safe and responsible manner;

- respect ourselves, other members of the College community and the College environment;
- actively participate in College; and
- not disrupt the learning of others and make the most of our educational opportunities.

As community members, we will:

- model positive behaviour to the College community;
- treat other members of the College community with respect;
- support College staff to maintain a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students; and
- utilise the College's processes for communication with staff and submitting complaints.

## UNREASONABLE BEHAVIOURS

Schools are not public places, and the College Principal has the right to permit or deny entry to our College grounds (for more information, see our *Visitors Policy*).

Unreasonable behaviour that is demonstrated by College staff, parents / carers, students or members of our College community will not be tolerated at the College, or during College activities.

Unreasonable behaviour includes:

- speaking or behaving in a rude, manipulative, aggressive or threatening way, either in person, via electronic communication or social media, or over the telephone;
- being violent or threatening violence of any kind, including physically intimidating behaviour such as aggressive hand gestures or invading another person's personal space;
- sending demanding, rude, confronting or threatening letters, emails or text messages;
- discriminatory or derogatory comments; and
- the use of social media or public forums to make inappropriate or threatening remarks about the College, staff or students.

Harassment, bullying, violence, aggression, threatening behaviour and unlawful discrimination are unacceptable and will not be tolerated at our College.

Unreasonable behaviour and/or failure to uphold the principles of this *Statement of Values and College Philosophy* may lead to further investigation and the implementation of appropriate consequences by the College Principal.

At the College Principal's discretion, unreasonable behaviour may be managed by:

- requesting that the parties attend a mediation or counselling sessions;
- implementing specific communication protocols;
- written warnings;
- conditions of entry to College grounds or College activities;
- exclusion from College grounds or attendance at College activities;
- reports to Victoria Police; and / or
- legal action.

Inappropriate student behaviour will be managed in accordance with both our College's *Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy* and *Bullying Prevention Policy*.

Our *Statement of Values and College Philosophy* ensures that everyone in our College community will be treated with fairness and respect. In turn, we will strive to create a College that is inclusive and safe, where everyone is empowered to participate and learn.

## COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our College's website
- Included in staff induction processes
- Included in transition and enrolment packs
- Regularly referred to in our College's newsletter
- Made available in hard copy from our College administration upon request

## RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Department of Education and Training policies and resources:

- [Work-Related Violence in Schools Policy](#)
- [Respectful Behaviours within the School Community Policy](#)
- [School Community Safety Order Scheme](#)

Example school policies:

- Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Parent Complaints Policy

## POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Policy last reviewed	September 13 <sup>th</sup> 2022
Approved by	College Council
Next scheduled review date	2025